3: Redlich S-3 (no date) 1936 EG1 Albania EG1



and this influence also had left its mark on the town. Then came the Anjous of the Neapolitan line who were the first to assume for themselves the title of King of Albania. However, during the four hundred years of Turkish domination, some of the Byzantine and Venetian architecture was altered or destroyed by the invaders. To-day, picturesque Durazzo lies peacefully on the Adriatic converted into a thriving modern city, amid all of its interesting ruins, with an ideal port that has become a growing center for both sea-going and general trade, and the largest cigarette factory in Albania is located here.

2Edmonds T-3 (1926?) 1927 E13 Balkan Peoples
Albania E-G1

# Tobacco Manufacture

from a ram's horn. It was fastened together with beeswax into which tiny coloured beads had been driven to form a pattern. At the mouthpiece end were inserted two short lengths of straw cut in a peculiar manner, and it was the vibration of these straws which produced the pleasant, oboe-like sound; though when I got back to the hotel and tried the instrument, much to my disappointment no sound whatever came. There is evidently a knack in playing it which I do not possess. Similar little pipes have been known in the Balkans for many centuries. They are, without doubt, the early ancestors of the reed instruments—clarinets, oboes, English horns and bassoons—of the modern orchestra. 534

The principal tobacco-growing districts of Albania are Elbasan and Scutari. The tobacco of Elbasan is usually considered the better, though the cigarettes of Scutari suited my personal taste and I preferred them to the Elbasan cigarettes. I think that the leaf was chosen with more care and that the blending was superior. At both places they are cheap, the price of a packet of twenty being half a krone (2½d.). Many of the local people, however, prefer to carry loose tobacco and roll their own. Pipe-smoking is rare, and the pipe-smoker has to have tobacco specially cut for him. Cigars are not available, the reason being that, although they could be made, nobody could afford to buy them. The crop at present grown is only sufficient to supply the home demand, and, with the exception of a small quantity to Zara on the Dalmatian coast, no tobacco is 277

2:Edmonds T-3 (1926?) 1927 E13 Balkan Peoples
Albania E61

# To the Land of the Eagle

277 exported. I was surprised to hear this, as the tobacco is of good quality and ought to command a sale abroad.

One morning I was invited into his shop by a Scutari tobacconist to see the process of manufacture. Near the door sat two men and a boy rolling tobacco and filling paper cigarette tubes at an astonishing rate. At the back of the shop a third man was cutting the tobacco with the aid of a heavy knife and a U-shaped receptacle. This receptacle was lined with polished tin, and the knife was fastened so that it worked on a fulcrum across the opening. Having slightly oiled the tin lining the man put in tobacco leaves one on top of another until he had a wedge of tobacco some six inches through. Then he knelt upon it so that the pressure was sufficient to force the mass forward to the slight extent necessary for each stroke, and began to work the knife. It will be readily understood that the one essential to the success of the process was to keep the blade at razor sharpness, and this necessitated constant removal and much work with oilstones and hones and a considerable amount of hammering and adjustment. I stayed for a quarter of an hour drinking the coffee and smoking the cigarettes that my hospitable host provided, and then escaped with relief. Although the weather was hot the little shop was hermetically closed; not a particle of air could get in anywhere and I marvelled how it was possible for five persons to exist—let alone work—in such an atmosphere.

000 At the Hotel Europa there were three British guests besides myself—a colonel, and a major and his wife. I